LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

(ESTABLISHED 1858)

CLASSIFIED

No. 48—101st YEAR | VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1959 | SECOND NEWS SECTION

'Shocking' CPR Decision Will Face Bitter Protests

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'Terrible News' City's Reaction To CPR Stand

Exclamations of dismay, slightly tempered by "it had to happen" or "they couldn't keep on with those costs" came from the Victoria man-in-the-street yesterday in the wake of the CPR's announced boat-service curtailment.

All winter boat service between Victoria-Vancouver and Victoria-Seattle will be cut off effective Feb. 26 until summer schedules begin.

Strong reaction came from Chief Constable John Blackstock of Victoria.

"This creates a serious problem for us," he said, "primarily in the transport of mental patients to the mainland."

Said Leonard French, 326 Simcoe: "It will put a serious crimp in business. Look what happened during the strike last year."

"Victoria's position as a year-round tourist resort should be considered before anything like this is done," said M. J. Larson, 2522 Quadra, a member of the Royal Canadian Navy.

"It's a very poor show. They're leaving Victoria stranded," said A. G. (Sandy) Lett, 2501 Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Page, 319 Gorge West, were planning a combined business and pleasure trip to Seattle at the end of February.

"This is terrible news," they said. "It makes it so awkward for Victorians planning such trips for any reason."

Said Victor Harrison, 823 Anderson: "Year-round service should be maintained. They make a big haul in the summer, then cut off the winter run!"

"The CPR just wants out of Victoria," said A. Clyde, Fairfield Hotel. "They're doing well in Nanaimo now. It was different 40 years ago."

Said Mrs. Ivy Brown, 2803 Gosworth: "I never heard anything so silly in my life."

Donald Davidson, 607 Beach, said: "Victoria needs good service, but I don't know where it will come from if the CPR and TCA both pull out."

In similar vein, R. H. Rarrison, 1130 Vista Heights, said: "Transportation is a federal matter. It is up to the federal government to do something. We must have service of some kind and it is up to them to step in as the province did with Black Ball last year."

Louis Callan, 2574 Epworth, said: "Something like this had to be expected on the basis of passengers carried. No one can carry on a business at a loss."

Citizens Help Family

Generous Victorians have donated $824.75 and a quantity of furniture to the Donald McQueen family who lost all their belongings when their rented home at 422 Parry burned Sunday morning.

At 9.30 this morning, the Century Toppers' Club will drive through Victoria picking up the pledged furniture which will be stored at the James Bay Community Club hall until the family finds a new home, club spokesman Mrs. Harold Ketchell said last night.

Parking Land Appraisals Please Dowell

Independent appraisals of property needed by the city for its parking building across View between Douglas and Blanshard were received yesterday and Acting Mayor Arthur Dowell said he regarded them as encouraging.

He said they were "very little different" from the estimates of the city engineer—"not a hill of beans between them."

The acting mayor said the appraisals would be "the nucleus now of getting busy, and acting to acquire the properties, which will be the first step in the program."

JOHN COOPER

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Seen In Passing

John Cooper using a mattock as he cut down broom bushes in Beacon Hill Park to make room for planting pine trees. (He is a gardener at the park and has been working for the city for 11 years. He is interested in all sorts of sports but he particularly enjoys playing soccer) . . . **Pat Phipps** sawing lumber at Ogden Point . . . **Mrs. Mary E. Owen** telling about the 28-hand she was dealt in a crib game with **Ken Priske** and **Hugh Wadams** . . . **Cee Wright** growing another mustache he hopes will bring in channel 13 . . . **Hal Straight** watching proceedings in the legislature from the Speaker's gallery.

Dynamite Found In Lot

Ten sticks of dynamite, in dangerous condition, were found in a vacant lot alongside a Sidney house yesterday morning.

A team of demolition men from HMCS Naden were called in by Sidney RCMP to sink the explosives in 900 feet of water off Patricia Bay.

FOUND IN FIELD

Axel Ostram, whose house is near the Bazan Bay brickyard on the Patricia Bay Highway, found the explosives in a field alongside his home. The nitroglycerine was oozing out of the sticks.

Police called in a two-man team from HMCS Naden Naval Diving School under the command of Lt.-Cmdr. Ben Ackerman.

SUNK IN SEA

The explosive was put in a sack with weights and driven in an explosives truck to the RCN wharf at Patricia Bay where it was loaded on HMCS Songhees.

Sinking of the sack in sea water rendered the explosives harmless in a few hours, experts said.

Victoria Man Joins CNR Research Unit

W. Herbert Bailey of Victoria was named a staff officer of a new unit in the economics branch of the CNR research and development department in Montreal yesterday.

Skill Contest Over 105 Miles

Reliability Test Run Draws 25 Drivers

More than 25 drivers are expected to enter the 105-mile reliability test run Sunday, sponsored by Regal Pacemasters custom car club.

Drivers coming closest to the predetermined time set by the judges will receive prizes of $15, $10 and $5.

Top four drivers will also receive an engraved plaque for dashboard mounting.

Race will start at 1 p.m. from the Safeway porking lot at Burnside and Tillicum. Two minutes before they are about to leave, drivers will be handed instructions. Cars will leave at two-minute intervals.

The event is described by the RPMS as a test of safe driving skill. Legal speed limits must be observed.

Entry fee is $1.50. Entries will be accepted up until starting time. The public is invited to participate. For information call George Almond, Jr., at EV 2-1910.

New President

Installed as new president of the Victoria Gizeh Temple Shrine Club at annual installation ceremonies last night, Charles Savage, bottom, is shown with installing master Robert Foulis of Vancouver, centre, and Illustrious Potentate Harry Borgerson of Vancouver. Members of the Shrine Club and wives attended a banquet at the Sirocco Supper Club.—(Colonist photo.)

'Almost Calamity' —Dowell

Acting-Mayor Arthur Dowell said last night Victoria "will have to take some action" over discontinuance of the winter ferry service between Victoria and Vancouver and Seattle.

"This is really shocking," he said. "We shouldn't be cut off practically entirely. In view of the fact that the federal government took over in the Canadian Pacific strike, I see no reason why they shouldn't take over again until an adequate schedule is worked out.

PART OF CANADA

"We are part of Canada and should have some consideration."

The discontinuance, he said, was "too drastic entirely" and "almost a calamity."

Other community leaders echoed his words.

ALL ISLAND AFFECTED

"I certainly think we should protest, because any reduction of service affects the whole of Vancouver Island and particularly Greater Victoria," said Reeve George Chatterton of Saanich.

The situation, he said, lent more urgency to making sure Trans-Canada Air Lines continued to provide the air service between Victoria and Vancouver and Seattle.

MUST BE RELIABLE

"We must have a reliable service, and this is another reason for urging TCA continuation," he said.

Reeve George Murdoch of Oak Bay said he didn't know of much that could be done "except send a protest from council to the federal government."

SUBSIDIES NO GOOD

Reeve A. C. Wurtele of Esquimalt took the opposite view. He didn't think protesting was right, he said: if the service couldn't be made to pay, nothing could be done. Subsidies, he said, were no good.

But G. Conway Parrott, president of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, suggested continuation of the ferry service was a federal government responsibility.

REMEMBER AGREEMENTS

"Keeping in mind the agreements which formed part of the entrance of British Columbia into confederation in 1871, possibly the federal government should consider . . . continuing the service by subsidy," he said.

Mr. Parrott said the loss of the last direct sea link between Victoria and the mainland after nearly 100 years of service "is one that cannot be borne lightly by the people of Victoria."

REAL CRISIS

Victoria was facing a real transportation crisis, he said. Not only was it being deprived of boat service as a result of air transportation, but there also was a danger of being sidetracked by loss of the present TCA service and its replacement with a feeder service lacking a trans-continental operation.

First Call in Long Sea Career

Maiden voyage of 13,056-ton Norwegian freighter Rolv Jarl brought Captain Nils Alstad here on his first visit to the West Coast in 41 years of seafaring. He took command of spanking new ship at West German builders' yard last December. It brought a cargo of cars, now is loading lumber at Ogden Point.—(Colonist photo.)

Around the Island

Tight Skirts Lure Eyes from Books

NANAIMO—Tight skirts and sweaters of grade 12 girl students in Canadian high schools could perhaps have some adverse effect on the work of male students.

English-born teacher Peter McLoughlin of Nanaimo told Rotary Club yesterday that in England, girls wear a school uniform which is "frowsy" and makes them look like "undernourished boys."

But the English male student is able to better concentrate on his work that way, said the teacher.

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DUNCAN — The Westholme Ratepayers' Association complained to North Cowichan Council of an extensive log jam on the Chemainus River at Copper Canyon, and asked for its removal before it causes "serious damage through a sudden break." The group also complained about the "menace" of odors from the Crofton Pulp Mill.

Reeve C. A. P. Murison said both Harmac and B.C. Forest Products pulp mill at Crofton were carrying on continuous tests to eliminate as much nuisance from odors from the mill as possible.

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PARKSVILLE — Swiss women, recently denied the vote in a plebiscite in a country where the men-only voting system has always been the style, "didn't really want it anyway."

"They are quite content as they are," Anton R. Lendi, Swiss-Canadian commentator told a Qualicum-Parksville Canadian Club meeting here.

Mr. Lendi said other countries would do well to look to Switzerland for guidance in peaceful living.

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DUNCAN—Formation of a school boy safety patrol to regulate traffic at the entrances to Duncan Alexander elementary school was proposed by councillors at the meeting of North Cowichan council Thursday.

G. M. Garnett, principal of the school, asked for consideration being given to remedying a serious traffic hazard at the school.

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PARKSVILLE — A new Anglican church for Parksville is assured following unanimous approval given at the annual meeting of the church committee of St. Anne's parish.

The new church, to be known as St. Edmunds, is scheduled to be completed in time for St. Edmund's Day, Nov. 20, if present plans go ahead. Estimated cost is $20,000.

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DUNCAN—The B.C. Power Commission has confirmed to North Cowichan Council the construction of a new substation for Crofton, to cost $50,000 and to be completed by Oct. 1. Substation will provide an inedependent source of supply to the Crofton and Gulf Islands areas.

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TOFINO—R. Roy Barr, recently appointed clerk for the village of Tofino, was sworn into office by Magistrate Ian McLorie here.

DUNCAN — Many pioneer families and oldtimers of Maple Bay have been remembered in the names given to streets, roads and trails of the bay village. The names will replace letters of the alphabet which formerly designated the streets.

One famous old Indian is remembered in the name Redcap given to former E Street. He was nicknamed from his custom of always wearing a red cap. A Street will be Walcott Street; B, Springatt Street; C (to Herd Road), Manley; D, Maple Bay Road. F becomes Considine Avenue; G, Elkington Avenue; H, Herd Road; I, Chisholm Trail, and J, Beaumont Avenue.

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The 10-man Farmers' Institutes advisory board met Wednesday with the select standing committee on agriculture in Victoria and submitted seven resolutions out of the 94 with which they have been wrestling for three days.

Most lengthy resolution pressed for the "develpoment of large scale electric projects and the associated transmission systems to be undertaken on behalf of the people of the province through the B.C. Power Commission."

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DUNCAN—Funeral of Mrs. Margot Marie Gronvold, 44, of Lake Cowichan, will be held from Hirst funeral home at 1 p.m. today. Born in Norway, she has lived at Lake Cowichan for the past 17 years.

Survivors at home are her husband Einer, a son, Earle, and a daughter, Gladys. Burial will be in Cedar Valley memorial gardens.

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NANAIMO — "You are all lucky you weren't killed," juvenile court judge Beevor-Potts told three boys when he returned them to Brannan Lake Industrial School yesterday.

They were remanded for sentence on a car theft charge. The car they stole was completely demolished.

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NANAIMO — Elderly Nanaimo car passenger, Mrs. Cecilia Johns, was seriously injured yesterday when a car in which she was riding skidded 200 feet on icy Cedar Road south of here and plunged into a deep ditch. Authorities at Nanaimo General Hospital said she was in "fairly good condition" with chest and neck injuries."

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DUNCAN— Fourteen members of the International Woodworkers of America, local 1-80, will be delegates to the 22nd annual convention of District Council No. 1, of the IWA in Vancouver, Feb. 9.

A convention of the 10th annual safety conference will be held on the day prior to the IWA convention.

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NANAIMO—A second conviction for impaired driving resulted in a 30-day jail term for Francis Cecil Labor of Northfield.

Over $700 damage was caused when his vehicle collided with a parked car on Terminal Avenue.

Need for Low-Cost Housing — Pensioners' Biggest Problem

Rent Eats Up Meal Ticket

By TED SHACKLEFORD

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Lack of decent, cheap housing is the biggest single problem facing Victoria's pensioners.

A number of Greater Victoria organizations are working to fill the need, but it will be years before they can provide the needed accommodation—if at all.

Pensioners are forced to live in low-grade accommodation in many cases, and pay inflated prices for it. And the money they spend on accommodation can't be spent on food or other necessities.

One of these pensioners is 76-year-old John Falk, who gets a $55 pension cheque each month. Almost one-half of it—$27—has to go to rent his small shack.

In more affluent days the shack might have been a summer house or a child's large playhouse. It has stained glass and leaded windows.

Inside it has two rooms with a pokey little pantry with sink off the kitchen. Mr. Falk heats it with a wood-burning stove. He leaves the oven door open for heat.

"I can't afford it but I do the best I can," he said yesterday. "You haven't got anything over at the end of the month, you know."

The shack has no bathroom. The only bathroom is in the main house, to the front of the block. Other pensioners are living in housekeeping rooms inside the house.

A small wood stove is the only heating in a two-roomed shack on Pandora rented by $55-a-month pensioner John Falk, 76. Water has to be heated in the saucepan Mr. Falk is putting on the stove, and the oven door is left open to warm up the uninsulated cabin. He is unable to work.—(Colonist photo.)

The linoleum on the floor is old and worn. The second room in the shack is used as a bedroom by Mr. Falk. It is half-filled by a metal double bed.

Tall and spare, Mr. Falk was shaving when I arrived to talk to him. He was shaving because he had visitors coming. It was hard for him as he has an injured arm.

Breakfast for Mr. Falk was merely a cup of tea. Lunch and dinner looked like being a rusty can of spaghetti and meatballs. He had only 15 cents left out of the pension cheque and nothing more to come until the end of the month. There was no other food in the house.

A few years ago he worked part-time during the summer, but lately his health has been too poor for that. But Mr. Falk can't afford to seek medical treatment . . . he just hasn't the money.

With nothing in the bank and no property, Mr. Falk seems eligible for the provincial bonus, but he hasn't done anything about it yet. He said yesterday he would apply for it soon.

Sometimes he "mortgages" his next pension cheque by getting credit with tradespeople. Sometimes he just doesn't eat.

Mrs. E. E. Harper, convener of the Surplus Food Stall, who introduced me to Mr. Falk, will provide him with some food, if she hasn't already done so.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

Mr. Falk and hundreds of men and women in the same situation would like nothing quite so much as decent, and inexpensive accommodation. The problem is to find it.

And the problem is also to find food for these people, food they can't afford because they are forced to pay too much for accommodation. Mrs. E. E. Harper, at EV 3-9874, needs more donations of food for the food stall which helps pensioners.

Breakfast for me yesterday was two pieces of shredded wheat and tea. Lunch was about a quarter of a pound of liver, some onions, peas and tea. Dinner was three weiners, fried potatoes and the rest of the peas.

Yesterday I bought two packets of cigaret papers (5 cents), a packet of frozen peas (23 cents), the weiners and half a pound of pork liver (35 cents), four five-cent stamps and two coffees from a vending machine (20 cents), leaving me $21.23 until the end of the month.

Province Honored By Hotel

A permanent tribute to the province of British Columbia, in the form of a specially designed and decorated public room named for the province, will be unveiled Feb. 21 at official opening ceremonies of the new 400-room addition to the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

The British Columbia Room is decorated with authentic native art of the West Coast combined with B.C. fir panelling, Indian wood carvings, etched glass, special lighting fixtures and floor coverings of an original design highlighting the provincial crest and flower of British Columbia.